



WHITESTONE
solar farm

WHITESTONE SOLAR FARM

Volume 6: Environmental Statement

6.20 Appendix 7.1: Legislation, Policy and Guidance

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Planning Act (2008)
Infrastructure Planning
(Applications: Prescribed Forms
and Procedure)
Regulations 2009
Regulations 5(2)(a)

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ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

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Glossary

Term	Meaning
<i>Best and Most Versatile</i>	Best and Most Versatile is agricultural land with an Agricultural land Classification of Grade 1, Grade 2 or Grade 3a (National Planning Policy Framework).
<i>Environment Statement (ES)</i>	The Environmental Statement which presents the environmental information relating to the Proposed Development. The ES has been prepared to present information for formal consultation in accordance with current EIA regulation.
<i>Photomontage</i>	Where the Proposed Development model is superimposed onto existing baseline photography in accordance with TGN 06/19
<i>The Applicant</i>	The Application submitted to the Secretary of State for a Development Consent Order.
<i>The Application</i>	The proposed Whitestone Solar Farm.
<i>The Proposed Development</i>	The proposed Whitestone Solar Farm.

Acronyms

Acronym	Meaning
<i>AHLV</i>	Area of High Landscape Value
<i>AONB</i>	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
<i>DCO</i>	Development Consent Order
<i>DESNZ</i>	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
<i>EIA</i>	Environmental Impact Assessment
<i>ELC</i>	European Landscape Convention
<i>ES</i>	Environmental Statement
<i>GLVIA3</i>	Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition
<i>LCA</i>	Landscape Character Area
<i>LVIA</i>	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
<i>NPPF</i>	National Planning Policy Framework
<i>NPS</i>	National Policy Statement
<i>NSIP</i>	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
<i>PIR</i>	Passive Infra-Red
<i>PV</i>	Photovoltaic
<i>RVAA</i>	Residential Visual Amenity Assessment
<i>TGN</i>	Technical Guidance Note
<i>TPO</i>	Tree Preservation Orders

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Acronym	Meaning
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

Units

Units	Meaning
N/A	N/A

7.1 Legislation, Policy and Guidance

- 7.1.1 This Appendix supports **Environmental Statement (ES) Volume 1, Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.7]**, which has been developed in line with the following key legislation, policy and associated guidance which are applicable to the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA).

Legislation

The European Landscape Convention (Council of Europe as Amended by the 2016 Protocol)

- 7.1.2 The European Landscape Convention¹ treaty is not legally binding under UK law as it has not been enacted through domestic legislation. Its principles, however, influence national policy via guidance provided in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and guidance from Natural England.
- 7.1.3 The European Landscape Convention (ELC) (Council of Europe 2004) promotes the protection, management and planning of landscapes and organises international co-operation on landscape issues. Signatories of the ELC commit to: *“acknowledging that the landscape is an important part of the quality of life from people everywhere: in urban areas and in the countryside, in degraded areas as well as in areas of high quality, in areas recognised as being of outstanding beauty as well as everyday areas”*.

Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

- 7.1.4 The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 transposes the EU EIA Directive into UK law. Regulation 14 sets out the information that should be included within an Environmental Statement that accompanies a Development Consent Order (DCO).

The Planning Act, 2008

- 7.1.5 The Planning Act 2008² established the Infrastructure Planning Commission and made changes to the approval process for major infrastructure projects in England and Wales, such as roads, airports, and energy facilities (Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs)). It established a streamlined, faster, and more efficient development consent regime, replacing long, fragmented approval processes with national policy statements and single consent orders.

The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012

- 7.1.6 The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012/605)³, came into force on April 6, 2012. The Regulations streamlined the legal framework for protecting trees and replaced older regulations to create a unified system for Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs), making them simpler and easier to manage for local authorities.

The Hedgerow Regulations 1997

- 7.1.7 The Hedgerow Regulations⁴ make provision for the protection of important hedgerows in England and Wales. To facilitate the protection of those hedgerows, the Regulations apply to a wider class of hedgerows, described in regulation 3 (in particular to hedgerows which are 20 metres or more long or which meet another hedgerow at each end and which, in each case, are on or adjacent to land used for certain specified purposes).

National Planning Policy

Overarching National Policy Statement (NPS) for Energy EN – 1 2025

- 7.1.8 The UK Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) has published an Overarching National Policy for Energy (EN-1)⁵. This NPS outline the aspects of a landscape and visual assessment required for large energy schemes including for the construction, operation and decommissioning stages.
- 7.1.9 Section 4.7 discusses the criteria for good design of energy infrastructure.
- 7.1.10 Paragraph 4.7.1 states that:
“The visual appearance of a building, structure, or piece of infrastructure, and how it relates to the landscape it sits within, is sometimes considered to be the most important factor in good design. But high quality and inclusive design goes far beyond aesthetic considerations. The functionality of an object – be it a building or other type of infrastructure – including fitness for purpose and sustainability, is equally important.”
- 7.1.11 Section 5 of the NPS discusses the generic impacts that are likely to arise from the development of energy infrastructure. Landscape and Visual matters are discussed in Section 5.10.
- 7.1.12 Paragraph 5.10.1 states that:
“The landscape and visual effects of energy projects will vary on a case-by-case basis according to the type of development, its location and the landscape setting of the proposed development. In this context, references to landscape should be taken as covering seascape and townscape where appropriate.”
- 7.1.13 Paragraph 5.10.4 states that:
“Landscape effects arise not only from the sensitivity of the landscape but also the nature and magnitude of change proposed by the development, whose specific siting and design make the assessment a case-by-case judgement.”
- 7.1.14 Paragraph 5.10.5 recognises that nationally significant infrastructure is likely to result in an adverse effect on the landscape but that there are opportunities for beneficial impacts. The paragraph states that:
“Virtually all nationally significant energy infrastructure projects will have adverse effects on the landscape, but there may also be beneficial landscape character impacts arising from mitigation.”
- 7.1.15 The NPS requires consideration of the design of a NSIP in order to minimise impacts on the landscape. Paragraph 5.10.6 states that:

“Projects need to be designed carefully, taking account of the potential impact on the landscape. Having regard to siting, Operational and other relevant constraints the aim should be to minimise harm to the landscape, providing reasonable mitigation where possible and appropriate.”

7.1.16 The NPS provides discussion on nationally designated landscapes and landscapes that may be valued at the local level. Paragraph 5.10.12 states that:

“Outside nationally designated areas, there are landscapes that may be highly valued locally. Where a local development document in England or a local development plan in Wales has policies based on landscape or waterscape character assessment, these should be paid particular attention. However, locally valued landscapes should not be used in themselves to refuse consent, as this may unduly restrict acceptable development.”

7.1.17 In addition to landscape effects Section 5.10 discusses visual effects.

7.1.18 Paragraph 5.10.13 recognises that visual effects resulting from a nationally significant energy infrastructure project are likely to occur. The paragraph states that:

“All proposed energy infrastructure is likely to have visual effects for many receptors around proposed sites. “

7.1.19 Paragraph 5.10.14 goes on to state that:

“The Secretary of State will have to judge whether the visual effects on sensitive receptors, such as local residents, and other receptors, such as visitors to the local area, outweigh the benefits of the project.”

7.1.20 Section 5.10 also provides discussion on mitigation. Of particular note Paragraph 5.10.26 states that:

“Reducing the scale of a project can help to mitigate the visual and landscape effects of a proposed project. However, reducing the scale or otherwise amending the design of a proposed energy infrastructure project may result in a significant operational constraint and reduction in function – for example, electricity generation output. There may, however, be exceptional circumstances, where mitigation could have a very significant benefit and warrant a small reduction in function. In these circumstances, the Secretary of State may decide that the benefits of the mitigation to reduce the landscape and/or visual effects outweigh the marginal loss of function.”

7.1.21 EN-1 is supported by a number of Technical NPS. The following EN-3 and EN-5 are relevant to Landscape and Visual impact Assessment.

National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure EN – 3 2025

7.1.22 National Policy Statement EN-3⁶ requires that developers of large-scale renewable projects assess and mitigate impacts on landscape character and visual amenity as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Specific extracts relating to this Proposed Development are as follows.

7.1.23 Paragraphs 2.10.88 to 2.10.93 state that:

“Landscape and visual impacts should be considered carefully pre-application. Potential impacts on the statutory purposes of nationally designated landscapes should form a part of the pre- application process.

Applicants should carry out a landscape and visual assessment and report it in the ES. Visualisations may be required to demonstrate the effects of a proposed solar farm on the setting of heritage assets and any nearby residential areas or viewpoints.

Applicants should follow the criteria for good design set out in Section 4.7 of EN-1 when developing projects and will be expected to direct considerable effort towards minimising the landscape and visual impact of solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays especially within nationally designated landscapes.

Whilst there is an acknowledged need to ensure solar PV installations are adequately secured, required security measures such as fencing should consider the need to minimise the impact on the landscape and visual impact.

Whilst there is an acknowledged need to ensure solar PV installations are adequately secured, required security measures such as fencing should consider the need to minimise the impact on the landscape and visual impact (see paragraphs 2.10.38 – 2.10.40 of this NPS).

The applicant should consider as part of the design, layout, construction, and future maintenance plans how to protect and retain, wherever possible, the growth of vegetation on site boundaries, as well as the growth of existing hedges, established vegetation, including mature trees within boundaries. Applicants should also consider opportunities for individual trees within the boundaries to grow on to maturity.

The impact of the proposed development on established trees and hedges should be informed by a tree survey and arboricultural / hedge assessment as appropriate.”

- 7.1.24 EN-5 also provides requirements in respect of mitigation relating to landscape and visual matters. Paragraphs 2.10.123 to 2.10.125 state that:

“Applicants should consider the potential to mitigate landscape and visual impacts through, for example, screening with native hedges, trees and woodlands.

Applicants should aim to minimise the use and height of security fencing. Where possible applicants should utilise existing features, such as hedges or landscaping, to assist in site security, or screen security fencing.

Applicants should minimise the use of security lighting. Any lighting should utilise a passive infra-red (PIR) technology and should be designed and installed in a manner which minimises impact.”

National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure EN – 5 2025

- 7.1.25 EN-5⁷ supports the development of electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure, including overhead lines, substations, and underground cables. Its relevance to LVIA lies in how it guides the assessment and mitigation of visual and landscape impacts from these types of infrastructure. In particular the policy focusses on:

- Landscape sensitivity and value – it requires developers to assess the sensitivity of the landscape to change, including designated areas such as National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), and heritage landscapes;

- Landscape value, determined by factors such as public perception, designations, and cultural associations;
- Visual receptors (e.g. residents, walkers, road users) must be identified and assessed for susceptibility to visual change;
- The use of photomontages, viewpoint analysis, and Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) mapping to understand potential impacts;
- Design and Mitigation – promoting design iteration to reduce visual harm, through sensitive site planning and screening;
- Cumulative impacts from other infrastructure projects, especially in areas with existing or planned developments; and
- Night-Time Effects – derived from lighting which may affect dark skies or tranquil landscapes.

National Planning Policy Framework (2024)⁸

- 7.1.26 The NPPF outlines the Government's planning policies for England and their application. In Paragraph 5 of the NPPF, it explains that the Framework does not include specific policies for NSIPs. It asserts that:
- “The Framework does not contain specific policies for nationally significant infrastructure projects. These are determined in accordance with the decision-making framework in the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and relevant national policy statements for major infrastructure, as well as any other matters that are relevant (which may include the National Planning Policy Framework). National policy statements form part of the overall framework of national planning policy and may be a material consideration in preparing plans and making decisions on planning applications.”*
- 7.1.27 NPPF paragraph 8(c) states the environmental objective of sustainable development is:
- “To protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.”*
- 7.1.28 NPPF paragraph 105 states:
- “Planning policies and decisions should protect and enhance public rights of way and access, including taking opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks including National Trails.”*
- 7.1.29 NPPF paragraph 117(a) indicates that developments ought to:
- “Give priority first to pedestrian and cycle movements, both within the scheme and with neighbouring areas.”*
- 7.1.30 NPPF Paragraph 125 outlines that planning policies should:
- “a) encourage multiple benefits from both urban and rural land, including through mixed use schemes and taking opportunities to achieve net environmental gains – such as developments that would enable new habitat creation or improve public access to the countryside.”*
- 7.1.31 NPPF paragraph 135 states:

“Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments:

a) will function well and add to the overall quality of the area, not just for the short term but over the lifetime of the development;

b) are visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping;

c) are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation or change (such as increased densities) ...”

7.1.32 NPPF paragraph 137 provides commentary on design quality:

“Design quality should be considered throughout the evolution and assessment of individual proposals. Early discussion between applicants, the local planning authority and local community about the design and style of emerging schemes is important for clarifying expectations and reconciling local and commercial interests. Applicants should work closely with those affected by their proposals to evolve designs that take account of the views of the community. Applications that can demonstrate early, proactive and effective engagement with the community should be looked on more favourably than those that cannot.”

7.1.33 NPPF paragraph 139 relates to local design policies and government guidance on design stating:

“Development that is not well designed should be refused, especially where it fails to reflect local design policies and government guidance on design, taking into account any local design guidance and supplementary planning documents such as design guides and codes. Conversely, significant weight should be given to:

a) development which reflects local design policies and government guidance on design, taking into account any local design guidance and supplementary planning documents such as design guides and codes; and/or

b) outstanding or innovative designs which promote high levels of sustainability or help raise the standard of design more generally in an area, so long as they fit in with the overall form and layout of their surroundings.”

7.1.34 NPPF paragraph 143 sets out the fundamental aims of Green Belt policy which are to:

- Check unrestricted urban sprawl;
- Prevent towns from merging;
- Safeguard the countryside from encroachment;
- Preserve the setting of historic towns; and
- Assist urban regeneration by encouraging reuse of derelict land.

7.1.35 NPPF Paragraph 187 relates to the contribution and enhancement of the natural and local environment by stating:

“a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan)”;

“b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland”; and

“d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures....”

7.1.36 NPPF paragraph 188 states:

“Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework; take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.”

7.1.37 NPPF Paragraph 193(d) states:

“opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate.”

7.1.38 Lastly, Paragraph 198 states:

“Planning policies and decisions should also ensure that new development is appropriate for its location taking into account the likely effects (including cumulative effects) of pollution on health, living conditions and the natural environment, as well as the potential sensitivity of the site or the wider area to impacts that could arise from the development. In doing so they should:

b) identify and protect tranquil areas which have remained relatively undisturbed by noise and are prized for their recreational and amenity value for this reason; and

c) limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation.”

Local Planning Policy

North East Derbyshire Local Plan ⁹(2014 – 2034)

Policy SS1: Sustainable Development

7.1.39 The policy sets out that developments should create well designed places, protect and enhance the character, quality and diversity of the district’s green infrastructure and local landscapes.

7.1.40 **ES Volume 3, Figure 5.1: Illustrative Masterplan [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** details the intended landscape strategy for the Proposed Development.

Policy SDC2: Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows

7.1.41 This policy sets out that developments should provide for the protection and integration of existing trees, woodland and hedgerows. Where loss of such assets is unavoidable then replacement planting should be undertaken. New planting should use species and varieties native to the area, of local provenance where possible.

- 7.1.42 **ES Volume 3, Figure 5.1: Illustrative Masterplan [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** details the intended landscape strategy for the Proposed Development. Including retained landscape elements and features

Policy SDC3: Landscape Character

- 7.1.43 This policy sets out development should be informed by the Derbyshire Landscape Character Assessment.
- 7.1.44 An assessment of the landscape effects is detailed in **ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual [EN0110020/APP/6.7]**.

Policy SDC12: High Quality Design and Place-Making

- 7.1.45 This policy sets out development should respond positively to local character and where possible enhance the quality and local identity. Developments should include boundary treatment and landscaping which are well designed and create effective landscape buffers where required.
- 7.1.46 **ES Volume 3, Figure 5.1: Illustrative Masterplan [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** details the intended landscape strategy for the Proposed Development.

The City of Doncaster Local Plan ('Doncaster Local Plan 2015 - 2035')¹⁰

Policy 26: Green Infrastructure

- 7.1.47 The policy sets out that developments should where possible extend or create Doncaster's green infrastructure.
- 7.1.48 Details regarding Biodiversity Net Gain is covered in **ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Biodiversity and Nature Conservation [EN0110020/APP/6.6]**.

Policy 27: Protecting Open Space and Non-Designated Open Space

- 7.1.49 The policy sets out designated open space and non-designated public open space is retained.
- 7.1.50 **ES Volume 3, Figure 5.1: Illustrative Masterplan [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** details the intended landscape strategy for the Proposed Development. Including retained landscape elements and features.

Policy 32: Woodlands, Trees and Hedgerows

- 7.1.51 The Policy sets out proposals will be supported where it can be demonstrated that woodlands, trees and hedgerows have been adequately considered during the design process, and to avoid Significant Adverse impacts upon public amenity.
- 7.1.52 **ES Volume 3, Figure 5.1: Illustrative Masterplan [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** details the intended landscape strategy for the Proposed Development. Including retained landscape elements and features.

Policy 33: Landscape

- 7.1.53 The Policy sets out proposals will be supported where developments they take account of quality, local distinctiveness and sensitivity to change of distinctive landscape character areas and individual landscape features.
- 7.1.54 **ES Volume 3, Figure 5.1: Illustrative Masterplan [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** details the intended landscape strategy for the Proposed Development. Including retained landscape elements and features.
- 7.1.55 An assessment of the landscape effects is detailed in **ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual [EN0110020/APP/6.7]**.

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, Core Strategy 2013 - 2028 (September 2014) ¹¹

Policy CS 19: Green Infrastructure

- 7.1.56 The Policy sets out that proposals will be supported which avoid damage or loss to green infrastructure assets, improve connectivity between new development and assist with the integration of new development into natural environments.
- 7.1.57 **ES Volume 3, Figure 5.1: Illustrative Masterplan [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** details the intended landscape strategy for the Proposed Development. Including retained landscape elements and features.

Policy CS 21: Landscape

- 7.1.58 The policy sets out new development will be required to safeguard and enhance the quality, character, distinctiveness and amenity value of the Borough's landscape.
- 7.1.59 Landscape features and characteristics will be retained, so far as possible, protected and managed long term as part of the Proposed Development. An assessment of the landscape effects is detailed in **ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual [EN0110020/APP/6.7]**.

Policy CS 22: Green Space

- 7.1.60 The policy sets out that the Council seeks to protect and improve the quality and accessibility of green spaces available.
- 7.1.61 **ES Volume 3, Figure 5.1: Illustrative Masterplan [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** details the intended landscape strategy for the Proposed Development. Including retaining landscape elements and features.

Policy CS 28: Sustainable Design

- 7.1.62 The policy sets out that proposals should respect and enhance the distinctive features of Rotherham. Design should take all opportunities to improve the character and quality of an area.
- 7.1.63 Landscape character and characteristics policies have been detailed and implemented in **ES Volume 3, Figure 5.1: Illustrative Masterplan [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** and the ES.

Rotherham Local Plan Core Strategy 2013 - 2028 (2028 Five Year Review) ¹²

Policy CS 21

- 7.1.64 *“The policy remains compliant with national policy, the deletion of the Area of High Landscape Value designation in the Sites and Policies document should be reflected.”*
- 7.1.65 This has been adopted into the **ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.7]**, Scoping Report and supporting figures. The assessment has not included Areas of High Landscape Value (AHLV) designations in the assessment but has included them in value judgements on the host character area.

Rotherham Local Plan (2018) Sites and Policies ¹³

Policy SP2

- 7.1.66 *“The policy states inappropriate development should not be approved except in very special circumstances. Where consented proposals should minimise the impact of development on the openness of Green Belt.”*
- 7.1.67 The full LVIA will address the impact and minimise the impact of the Proposed Development upon the openness of Green Belt.

Policy SP32

- 7.1.68 *“The policy requires the most sensitive landscape character areas development will only be permitted where it will not detract from the landscape or visual character of the area and where appropriate standards of design and landscape architecture are achieved.” Developments should take account of the Council’s various landscape character and capacity studies.” Larger developments should take account of the elements listed in the policy”*
- 7.1.69 The assessment has assessed the impacts upon landscape and visual character. The assessment has used the Council’s Landscape Character Areas (LCA) studies as the basis of the assessment.

Supplementary Planning Guidance 14: Trees

- 7.1.70 *“The guidance provides general advice to support the protection and improvement of the borough’s tree stock and their growing environment. It will help applicants to prepare and submit proposals that are mindful of the needs of trees and the many benefits they provide to a local area; and support the delivery of relevant objectives and policies.”*
- 7.1.71 This assessment has considered the impacts of the Proposed Development upon trees.

Rotherham Sites & Policies Plan 2018 Five Year Review (November 2023)

Policy SP2

- 7.1.72 *“Policy SP2 sets out the criteria and conditions under which development may be permitted in Rotherham’s designated Green Belt areas. Its purpose is to:*
- *Protect the openness and permanence of the Green Belt;*
 - *Ensure that development proposals are consistent with national Green Belt policy (as outlined in the National Planning Policy Framework, NPPF); and*
 - *Guide decision-makers in assessing whether exceptional circumstances exist to justify development in these areas.”*
- 7.1.73 The full LVIA will address the impact and minimise the impact of the Proposed Development upon the openness of Green Belt.

Maltby Neighbourhood Plan 2017 – 2028¹⁴

Policy M 1

- 7.1.74 *“Development should enhance and conserve local distinctiveness by demonstrating high quality design that both respects the existing character and responds to the distinctive character.”*
- 7.1.75 This has been adopted into the ES, previous Scoping Report and **ES Volume 3, Figure 5.1: Illustrative Masterplan [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**.
- 7.1.76 The Maltby Neighbourhood Plan has been adopted into the design for the Cable Corridors.

Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan 2021 – 2028¹⁵

Policy GP 1: High Quality Design

- 7.1.77 *“All commercial development should take account of and comply with guidance set out in the Wickersley Design Code.”*
- 7.1.78 The Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan has been followed regarding design around Wickersley in the **ES Volume 3, Figure 5.1: Illustrative Masterplan [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**.

Policy GS 1: Biodiversity & Green Infrastructure

- 7.1.79 *“The provision of green infrastructure, and where possible, connect with the existing Strategic Green Infrastructure Corridor and/or Local Wildlife Sites and linkages...”*
- 7.1.80 **ES Volume 3, Figure 5.1: Illustrative Masterplan [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** details the intended landscape strategy for the Proposed Development. Including retaining landscape elements and features.

Planning Practice Guidance

- 7.1.81 Supporting planning practice guidance that has been considered includes:

- Natural Environment (Landscape), (Updated July 2019) ¹⁶;
- Renewable and Low Carbon Energy (Updated August 2023) ¹⁷; and
- RMBC (2023) Supplementary Planning Document: Trees.¹⁸
- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2019) Planning Practise Guidance: Green Belt¹⁹.

Guidance

7.1.82 Supporting guidance that has been considered includes:

- National Infrastructure Commission Design Group, (2020) Design Principles for National Infrastructure²⁰;
- Natural England (October 2014) An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment²¹;
- Natural England (June 2019) An approach to landscape sensitivity assessment – to inform spatial planning and land management²²;
- The Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (April 2013) Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd edition²³;
- The Landscape Institute. (September 2019) Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 06 / 19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals;
- The Landscape Institute (September 2020) TGN 04/2020 Infrastructure²⁴;
- The Landscape Institute (May 2021) TGN 02 – 21 Assessing Landscape Value Outside National Designations²⁵;
- The Landscape Institute (August 2024) LITGN – 2024 – 01 Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of the 3rd Edition Guidelines on Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA3) ²⁶; and
- The Landscape Institute (March 2019) TGN 02/19 Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA)²⁷.

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